

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSG #0541 0742005  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 152005Z MAR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8647  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE 2511  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 3110  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 2949  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 0890  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE 0205  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE 0093  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR 4528  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 4486  
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 0809  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 1012  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 0495  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 1540  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0141  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 000541

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO AND WHA/BSC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/11/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [UNSC](#) [VE](#) [GT](#) [CI](#)  
SUBJECT: BACHELET EXPRESSES DESIRE FOR CONSENSUS CANDIDATE  
FOR GRULAC UNSC SEAT

REF: A. SANTIAGO 516  
[1](#)B. SANTIAGO 514  
[1](#)C. SANTIAGO 488  
[1](#)D. SANTIAGO 447  
[1](#)E. SANTIAGO 429  
[1](#)F. SANTIAGO 384

Classified By: Ambassador Craig A. Kelly. Reasons: 1.4 (b and d).

[1](#)1. (U) President Bachelet told the press on March 13 that Chile would prefer that the GRULAC nations agree on a consensus candidate for the UNSC seat, rather than arrive at the vote with two candidates. In response to a question as to whether the GOC would support Venezuela's candidacy, Bachelet acknowledged that there was "more than one candidate in the region." She stated that Chile's desire for a "consensus candidate" would guide its approach and added that the GOC would make its position known "once it has clearly identified a candidate."

[1](#)2. (U) Bachelet's comments were reported in an article in the leading Chilean daily "La Tercera" on March 13 under the heading "Chile to initiate consultations regarding Venezuela's candidacy." The article noted Venezuela already had initiated an intense lobbying effort in support of its candidacy, a candidacy which "the U.S. has publicly rejected." The same article quoted Venezuelan Ambassador Delgado as saying that while the GOV had not received any signal from Chile regarding its position, Venezuela expected Chile would vote for Venezuela in return for the support Venezuela provided last year for Insulza's OAS SecGen candidacy.

[1](#)3. (C) Post will continue to emphasize our concerns about two years of Chavez' obstructionism to the highest levels of the Chilean government, and to other Chilean interlocutors who might be in a position to influence Bachelet.

[1](#)4. (C) Comment: Bachelet's statement about Chile's preference

for a consensus candidate may reflect her desire to avoid having to chose between Venezuela (and regional solidarity) and Guatemala (and support for the U.S.) The GOC's regional consultations will begin when Bachelet, FM Foxley and other ministers travel to Argentina on March 21, for Bachelet's first overseas visit as president.

KELLY